

Balazs, in addition you will need to read p.

see HWK

Meanwhile in Rome...

After over a 100 years of decay, Rome in the 15th Century had serious problems, in order to improve the City, the Pope decided to mark the year, 1450, as a jubilee year. To gain more donations, the Church began to trade off years in purgatory for contributions to the Church. In the years following the Great Schism, the church in Rome became more and more extravagant and corrupt. Church offices were bought, in at least one case a nine year old was named Cardinal and at least one Pope Alexander VI (Borgia Popes) had a number of children, one of whom was known to beat up prostitutes.

The premise of getting "excused" from Purgatory was not new. As stated earlier in this essay, the Church began "excusing" people from purgatory in return for fighting in the crusades. Much like some of the 9/11 terrorists who believed that attacking the US would give them a straight ticket to heaven, crusaders believed fighting for the faith would give them a straight ticket to heaven. Over time, the practice of fighting in the Crusades and gaining a reprieve from Purgatory changed, soon merely paying someone else to fight for you could reduce one's time in purgatory, later simply paying enough money to the Church excused one from part or all of purgatory. The practice of "excusing" someone from purgatory is called "**Indulgences**."

Some critics of the Church, known as Christian Humanists (humanists were people educated about the Greeks and Romans and sought to improve the life on earth) , including Thomas More and Erasmus argued against the Churches extravagances. With their new knowledge many debated, to some dissent was seen as not only acceptable but a means to gaining more knowledge. For others these ideas were heresy and the ideas needed to be extinguished. A Florentine leader named Savonarola began the practice of book burning (sadly often repeated). For Savonarola, dissent could not be permitted, it infected a population like a disease.

During this period, one of the greatest inventions in the history of man, the Printing Press was developed. An obscure (not well-known) tradesman named Johann Guttenberg made the first printing press in 1453. With the Printing press and the invention of paper, ideas spread rapidly (remember a form of paper existed in china as well as type of mechanical printing). Before the only way to make copies was for someone to physically sit down and copy everything, this was difficult and time consuming, in addition, the type of paper that was used was called parchment which was difficult and expensive to make.

In the early 16th century, a German priest named **Martin Luther** shook the world. Luther was one of the great thinkers of the time, initially a monk, Luther held an esteemed position as a teacher at **Wittenburg University**. Luther was constantly concerned about sinning and lived an incredibly plain life. In the early 1500s the Church again was trying to generate funds, this time to build St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome. Once again, the Church was gaining the funds by promising people less time in purgatory (these sales were called indulgences).

Name _____ Due ~~1/10/20~~

In addition to the above handout, you will need to review textbook pages 372 to 386 (you can skip pages 379-381 on Henry VIII, beginning again on 381 "Women influenced the Reformation").

QUESTIONS

1. Why was the church so threatened by dissent?

2. Give 3 specific examples of how the church handled dissenters. Why were some of the Royals (Kings, Queens and Nobles) of Europe pleased to split away from the Church?

3. What did they get out of removing themselves from the Roman Catholic Church?

4. Though in the beginning he was only a mild protestor hoping to change the Church from within, Martin Luther quickly became more and more critical of the Church until he finally began to argue that the Pope was the anti-Christ. Luther also never imagined that the critique of the Church that he initiated would later become so widespread with the introduction of a host of new religions. Luther was not happy about this turn of events. Did Luther open up a can of worm by beginning the reformation?

5. Many religions formed afterward, describe those religions. Later, millions of people died in Wars that occurred in the name of these religions. Isn't it ironic that a religion that formed out of dissent would later become intolerant itself? Why do you think the new religions were so intolerant.
6. Who are the "Princes of the Church" and what is their role?
7. How did the Church get money?
8. What percentage of Land did the Church own in France and the principalities that made up Germany?